

IV. Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-28 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 12 are independent. Claims 12-28 have been allowed, and the Examiner kindly indicated that Claims 2-11 contain allowable subject matter.

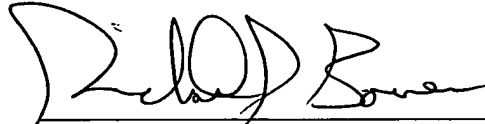
Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for the reasons noted at page 2 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection on the ground that the person of ordinary skill in the art would not be confused as to the meaning or scope of the claims. Nevertheless, this claim has been amended for clarity with respect to the specification and Drawings, and not in response to any statutory requirement.

Claim 1 was rejected as being unpatentable over Wdekamp, for the reasons noted at page 2 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverses all art rejections. The Examiner kindly indicated that Claims 2-11 contain allowable subject matter. Therefore, while specifically traversing the art rejection, and preserving Applicants' right to file a continuation application to pursue the broad but patentable claims, Applicants have incorporated subject matter from allowable dependent Claim 6 into independent Claim 1 solely to secure immediate allowance thereof.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that this application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard P. Bauer", written over a horizontal line.

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